GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3376
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
USE OF DDT
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Paswan Shri Ramchandra;Singh Shri Suraj

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDT is used in large quantity in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose for which DDT is used;

(d) whether use of DDT in large quantities is harmful;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the use of DDT ;and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Use of DDT for agricultural purposes has been banned since 1989. Limited use upto a maximum of 10000 MTs of Technical DDT per annum was permitted for public health purposes except in case of major outbreaks of epidemics (Annexure-I) by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. Considering the concerns expressed by the Ministry of Commerce that presence of residues of DDT has been affecting export of agriculture products, the issue was considered during 1997 by the Committee of Secretaries. Since DDT is an insecticide of choice for control of malaria and Kala-azar in the country by undertaking indoor residual spray in view of its cost-effectiveness and efficacy in specific locations (where the vector is susceptible to DDT), the committee of Secretaries decided that the use of DDT be mandated by a Group under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary with representatives from the Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Deptt. of Biotechnology and Planning Commission and Director General of Health Services. Accordingly, the Group was constituted on 29th January, 1997 (Annexure-II). The quantity of DDT 50% wdp used during the last four years for the control of malaria & Kala-azar is as under:

Year	Quantities (in metric tones) of DDT 50% wdp		Total
	For Malaria Control	For Kala-azar Control	
2001-02	5774	376	6150
2002-03	5800	242	6042
2003-04	6000	2208	8208
2004-05	6000	2500	8500

DDT is manufactured in the country by a sole manufacturer namely M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., a Public Sector undertaking of Govt. of India.

(d)&(e) WHO has reviewed the toxicity of DDT in detail and concluded inter-alia that:

- The information available does not provide convincing evidence of adverse effects of DDT exposure as a result of indoor residual spraying as carried out in Malaria control activities.

- There is, therefore at this stage, no justification on toxicological or epidemiological grounds for changing current policy towards indoor spraying of DDT for vector borne disease control.

(f) & (g): Government is already using DDT under vector borne disease control programme as per recommendation of WHO. DDT is listed among the twelve Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention, which has entered into force on 17th May,2004 in pursuance of Article 26. India has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 14th May,2002 and has taken steps to ratify the convention. The Stockholm convention on POPs permits the production and use of DDT strictly for disease vector control, under WHO recommendations and guidelines. The convention states, inter-alia, that:

- The production and use of DDT shall be eliminated except for parties (to the Convention) that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use it.

- Each Party producing and/or using DDT shall restrict such production and/or use for disease vector control in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendation and guidelines on the use of DDT and when locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the party in question.

- Commencing at its first meeting, and at least every three years thereafter, the conference of the Parties shall, in consultation with the World Health Organization, evaluate the continued use, need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information.

WHO proposed and supports the continued use of DDT for disease vector control under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

ANNEXURE-I

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

N O T I F I C A T I O N

New Delhi, the 26th May, 1989

S.O. 378(E) - Whereas, with a view to reviewing the continued use in India of pesticides that are either banned or restricted for use in other countries, the Government of India had set up an Expert Committee.

Now, therefore, after considering the recommendations of the said Expert Committee, and in consultation with the Registration Committee, set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on it, under sub-section (2) of section 27 read with Section 28 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, hereby passes the following order:-

1. The use of DDT in agriculture is hereby withdrawn. In very special circumstances warranting the use of DDT for plant protection work, the State or Central Government may purchase it directly from Messers Hindustan Insecticides Limited, to be used under expert Governmental supervision.

2. The use of DDT for the public health programme to 10,000 MTs per annum, except in case of any major outbreak of epidemic is hereby restricted.

3. The Central Government further orders that the registration certificates issued by the Registration Committee to various registrants under section 9 of the said Act shall stand

modified/cancelled to give effect to this order.

4. It is also ordered that all the holders of the registration certificates for manufacture and import of DDT should return their registration certificates to the Secretary, Registration Committee, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana) by the 15th June, 1989.

5. However, non-endorsement/correction of the registration certificates will not be taken as permission/approval to operate upon original certificate of registration in contravention of the provisions of this order.

6. Certificates not submitted by the due date shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

Sd/-
(B.Narasimhan)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

ANNEXURE-II

No.T-14020/10/94-Mal.
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 29th January, 1997

ORDER

Sub: Constitution of a Group to mandate use of DDT in the Public Health Programme.

In pursuance of the directives of Committee of Secretaries contained in the Minutes of the meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 3rd January, 1997, it has been decided to constitute a Group under Chairmanship of Secretary, D/o. Health, Ministry of Health & F.W. determining the use of DDT under the Public Health Programme.

2. The composition of the Group will be as under:-

Secretary, D/o Health, M/o Health & F.W. - Chairman
Representative from Planning Commission - Member
Representative from D/o Bio-Technology - Member
Representative from D/o Agriculture & Cooperation - Member
Director General of Health Services - Member
Director, NMEP - Member-Secretary.

3. The terms of reference of the Group shall be as follows.

(a) To specify parameters for the use of DDT on the basis of a review

(b) To identify specific areas every year for the targeted use of DDT in the Public Health Programme.

4. The Member-Secretary shall fix the dates of the meeting of Group in consultation with the Chairman and circulate the Agenda in which the incidence and endemicity of Malaria would be projected location specific basis alongwith the susceptibility of the vector-borne spraying. The Group would take into consideration the needs of special epidemic prone areas like Bihar and the North East Region where the use of DDT can be continued in a targeted manner.

This issues with the approval of Secretary, Health & Family Welfare.

Sd/-
(M.Kannan)

DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

To

1. Secretary(Health), M/o. Health & F.W

2. Secretary, Planning Commission

3. Secretary, D/o. Agriculture & Co-operation

4. Secretary, D/o. Bio-Technology

5. Director General of Health Services
6. Director, NMEP

7 Director (Shri Vijay Chibber), Cabinet Secretariat

Copy to:-

1. PS to MOS

2. PS to Additional Secretary (H)

3. PS to JS(RSD)

4. Sanction Order File.

Sd/-

(M.Kannan)
DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA